

REMARKS

Claims 18-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 18, 20, 24, 28, 29 and 34 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Specification

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of informalities. The Abstract has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 28 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 28 has been amended to change "nct(n_{bin})" to "nct(b_{bin}).". Withdrawal of the objection to claim 28 is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 18-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as failing to produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result." Claims 18, 19 and 34 have been amended so that hysteresis is now unambiguously claimed as being determined for a process device during its operation in an industrial process when a control input to and the process output from the process device are measured. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 20 is amended to recite "if the calculated change is smaller than the change calculated for the control input of the previous sample pair." Claim 24 is amended to change "in the order of one or more seconds" to "at least one second or longer," and to change "in the order of one or more minutes" to "at least one minute or longer." Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 18-34 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Obert H. Chu
Registration No. 52,744

JAO:OHC/rle

Attachments:

Amended Abstract
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 11, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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